

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT  
AT LAST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

FROM: C. WILLARD HECKEL, CHAIRMAN

SUBJ: SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER COMMISSIONER JERRY LEOPALDI'S  
PROPOSAL ON PRIVATE HOUSING

Our Director, Dan Anthony has polled the members of our Commission in an effort to arrange a meeting date before the end of June, as agreed upon in our last gathering. Unfortunately, because of vacations and other commitments he could not achieve a quorum.

For that reason, we shall postpone the meeting until after the Fourth of July week-end, in the hope that we shall then be able to have a greater attendance.

Enclosed is a brief summary of the minutes of our last meeting which the Commission agreed to send to all participants in the formation of the Group Relations Advisory Council. We have included in these minutes, only those items which pertain to your immediate interest as possible members of this council.

## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

Minutes of the meeting of June 15, 1955

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 P. M. by the Chairman, Dean Heckel. The minutes were read, motion made by Mr. Collier that they be accepted, seconded by Mr. Otero and passed.

Mr. Heckel thanked the visiting groups and friends for their presence and asked that each one identify himself to the house. (Copy of list attached hereto.) He then explained that the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations was organized to foster mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups in the City of Newark and that in Newark there are all types of people with all kinds of interests and hopes. He stated that the groups were invited to work with the Mayor's Commission by offering suggestions personally or in writing. He thinks that the best way to obtain results is to bring together a large number of associations of various types in the City of Newark and create an advisory council.

Mr. Leopaldi explained the setup of the Mayor's Commission as follows: It was selected by the Mayor, consists of 15 members picked from all walks of life. He asked for suggestions from the public and asked that each organization spread the works of the Mayor's Commission as much as possible in order to obtain wider publicity.

A visitor from the audience asked if the advisory council would be set up just for a survey. Dean Heckel said it would be a permanent group to inform the Commission of problems and help to solve them. It will aid in finding out what particular problems come within the scope of group relations.

Mr. Kellner asked that a list of the potential projects the Commission is now working on be read.

Dean Heckel complied with this request.

A member in the audience said he thought it a waste of time for the people to attend meetings if the Commissioners represent all organizations. Mr. Collier told him that he felt it was not a waste of time, that by being present the people would know how the Commission felt and just what it was trying to do. He suggested having Mr. Anthony send a synopsis of all meetings to each organization present.

Mr. Heckel said he does not have much faith in organizations obtaining a great deal from written reports and thinks it possible to obtain more pertinent information by meeting personally.

Mrs. Fenderson from the audience said that each organization representative was present without instructions from their groups and must first consult with their organizations before any definite action can be taken.

Following these preliminary remarks concerning the formation of an advisory council to the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, it was suggested that the participants present might get a better understanding of the work of this Commission if they participated in the normal activities of the Commission for the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Leopold then made his report as chairman of the Committee on Discrimination in Private Housing. He told of the information submitted by Mrs. Woodie at a prior meeting and made certain definite motions concerning future action. They were as follows:

1. That all facts pertaining to Mrs. Woodie's search for private housing be brought to the attention of the real estate agents and other persons involved. This would be done in private and friendly meetings with those persons involved. If satisfaction were not obtained through discussion with said individuals then the facts would be presented to the proper authorities for action.

2. That the chairman of this Commission confer with the Corporation Counsel to determine what legal rights the City Council has in passing an ordinance which would make discrimination in the sale of private housing an illegal act.

3. That a brief synopsis of the discussion at the commission meeting should be sent to all of those present. The above motions were duly made, seconded and passed with some argument "pro and con", being presented by Commissioners McCarthy, Mayer and Collier.

Commissioner Melnychuk reported on the second planning meeting of the Newark Committee for the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations and told of the cooperation of the Mayor's Commission in this important endeavor.

A short discussion on scholarships to the workshop in human relations at Rutgers University then followed. Further action was left in the hands of the committee handling this business.

Chairman Heckel then read a letter from Mrs. Pauline Hamilton concerning the re-settlement of refugees in the City of Newark. The chairman will appoint a committee to explore this matter further.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Anthony, Secretary

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

1. Sidney Kellner, Regional Director  
American Jewish Committee  
45 Branford Place  
City
2. Gladys Theis  
Women's League of New Jersey  
408 Washington Ave.  
Montclair, N. J.
3. Mr. Khecnson  
Ukrainian Workmen Association  
61 Beacon St.  
City
4. Michael J. Wynda, Corp. Attorney  
Ukrainian Savings Loan Corp.  
180 William St.  
City
5. Eugene Chmielewski  
Organization of Ukrainian in America of Self Reliance  
180 William St.  
City
6. Mr. Y. Turiansky  
Ukrainian War Veterans  
9 Belmont Ave.  
City
7. Mr. Leon Haygucuk  
Ukrainian American Youth Association  
180 William St.  
City
8. Mr. George Foster  
Young Peoples Council of Bethany Baptist Church  
West Market St.  
City
9. Mrs. Marie Bagby  
Phi Delta Kappa Sorority  
60 S. 12th St.  
City
10. Mr. Mykola Semanyshyn  
Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms of Ukraine  
658 Grove St.  
Irvington, N. J.

11. Dr. Theodore Krupa  
Pleasant Ukrainian Youth Organization  
603 - 17th St.  
City
12. J. T. Flagg  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
44 Stengel Ave.  
City
13. Walter Bodnar, Adjutant  
Ukrainian American Veterans Post  
506 - 18th Ave.  
City
14. Marilyn Feitel, Pres.  
C. I. O. Women's League of N. J.  
772 High St.  
City
15. Miss Esta Reicher  
Americans for Democratic Action Committee  
60 Branford Place  
City
16. Miss Frieda Klaiman  
Newark Teachers Union, AFL  
15 Goldsmith Ave.  
City
17. Mr. Hugh McKenna  
41 Grand Ave.  
City
18. Ruth Struik  
League of Women Voters  
305 Halsey St.  
City
19. Morton Seltzer  
Weequahic Adult School  
Weequahic High School - Chancellor Ave.  
City
20. Mrs. Alice Saltman, President  
Business & Professional Women of the American Jewish Council  
30 Scherer Ave.  
City
21. Mrs. Ira Copen, President  
Newark Section of Nat'l Council of Jewish Women  
19 Lyons Ave.  
City

22. Mr. Norman Schiff  
Nat'l Council of Jewish Women  
19 Lyons Ave.  
City
23. Mrs. Irma C. McElwee  
North Newark Community Council  
91 Wakeman Ave.  
City
24. Mary Paschal  
Board of Deacons, South Park Church  
59 Spruce St., Apt. 303  
City
25. Mrs. Grace Malone, President  
Fuld Neighborhood House  
71 Boyd St.  
City
26. Timothy Still  
Rev. William P. Hayes Homes Tenants' League  
71 Boyd St.  
City
27. Mrs. Bessie Hall  
Nat'l Sorority
28. Mr. Sidney Seff  
Committee on Puerto Ricans  
717 Shgh St.  
City
29. Susan Simons  
Fuld Neighborhood House  
71 Boyd St.  
City
30. Dr. Scheininger  
Weequahic Lions Club  
c/o - Berkeley Savings & Loan Ass'n  
88 Lyons Ave.  
City